

law governing agriculture concentration. Missouri State Concurrent Resolution 27 (S. Con. Res. 27) is a bipartisan resolution outlining what the Missouri legislature recommends the federal government should do to address the issue of concentration. The resolution passed the Missouri State Senate and was reported out of the House Agriculture Committee to the full House. In drafting the package of bills I am introducing today, I studied the recommendations and objectives in State Senator MAXWELL's Missouri resolution as well as including important provisions of my own.

Mr. President, the bill I'm introducing today—the Fair Play of Family Farms Act—does the following things:

First, this legislation adds "sunshine" to the merger process. It will give the Department of Agriculture more authority when it comes to mergers and acquisitions. This will heighten USDA's role in review of all proposed agriculture mergers so that the impact on farmers will be given more consideration, and will make these reviews public. The public will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed merger, and the USDA will be required to do an impact analysis on producers on a regional basis. I want to ensure that if two agri-businesses merge, the impact on farmers are completely evaluated.

Second, my bill creates a permanent position for an Assistant Attorney General for Agricultural Competition. This position will not simply be appointed by the President or by the Attorney General, but the position will require Senate review and confirmation. Also, my bill provides additional staffing for this new position.

In addition, this bill provides additional funds and requires the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA) to hire more litigation attorneys, economists, and investigators to enforce the Packers and Stockyard Act. An important element of this provision is that it requires GIPSA to put more investigators out "in the field" for oversight and investigations. I want to make sure that there are not just more attorneys and economists in Washington, D.C., but that there are more people out doing investigations and oversight.

Because there has been some concerns that the Packers and Stockyards Act does not cover the entire poultry industry, this legislation also requires an analysis of why the poultry industry is not covered, and requires GAO to offer suggestions for how the disparity between poultry and livestock can be remedied.

This bill addresses another problem I was informed about when I was out visiting Missouri farmers—and that is the issue of confidentiality clauses in contracts signed by farmers. Several farmers were concerned about confidentiality clauses in the contracts with agri-business that they were told make it illegal for farmers to share the con-

tract with others, even their lawyers and bankers. I want to ensure that farmers are able to get the legal and financial advice they need, so this bill ensures that such confidentiality clauses do not apply to farmers' contacts with their lawyers or bankers.

The bill also creates a statutory trust for the protection of ranchers who sell on a cash basis to livestock dealers. Right now, if ranchers deliver their cattle to a dealer and then the dealer goes bankrupt, the rancher is not protected. My bill would set up a trust for the rancher, so that if the dealer goes bankrupt, the rancher would be at the front of the line to get paid. There are similar trusts already set up for when a rancher sells livestock to a packer, and this legislation extends the same protections to ranchers when they sell their livestock to dealers.

One of the recommendations from the Missouri legislature that I included in the bill allows GIPSA to seek reparations for producers when a packer is found to be engaged in predatory or unfair practices. This section specifies that when money is collected from those that are damaging producers, the money should go to the farmers, not to the federal government.

This bill will lead to a more fair playing field for Missouri farmers and ranchers. It addresses concerns of Missourians that I have visited with and incorporates the outline of the Missouri State Resolution.

Finally, I am pleased to be the Senate sponsor of two bills that have already been introduced in the other Chamber by the distinguished Representative from Missouri, Congressman JIM TALENT. I would like to commend Congressman TALENT for the work he has done to help the Missouri agriculture community. Representative TALENT's bills on value added agriculture are a positive step for Missouri and U.S. producers. Therefore, I would like to introduce these two bills in the Senate to "help put farmers back in the driver's seat."

The Value-Added Development Act for American Agriculture provides technical assistance for producers to start value-added ventures. This bill helps family farmers compete by giving farmers the opportunity to take a greater share of the profit from the processing industry. The legislation will provide technical assistance to producers for value-added ventures, including engineering, legal services, applied research, scale production, business planning, marketing, and market development.

The funds would be provided to farmers through grants requests, which will be evaluated on the State level. It has long been my opinion that farmers know how best to farm their land, meet market demands, and make a profit. If the ideas of farmers are cultivated on a local and state level, farmers will likely have more flexibility to make wise decisions for markets in their home states and regions.

States would have the opportunity to apply for \$10 million grants to start up an Agriculture Innovation Center. The state boards will consist of the State Department of Agriculture, the largest two general farm organizations, and the four highest grossing commodity groups. The Agriculture Innovation Center will then use the funds to help farmers finance the start-up of value added ventures.

Once it is determined that the farmers' ideas for a value added venture could be beneficial, the State Agriculture Innovation Center can give the farmers assistance with plans, engineering, and design. When the farmer is actually ready to begin implementation of the value added project, the third bill I am introducing will help out.

The Farmers' Value-Added Agricultural Investment Tax Credit Act would create a tax credit for farmers who invest in producer owned value-added endeavors—even ventures that are not farmer-owned co-ops. This would provide a 50% tax credit for the producers of up to \$30,000 per year, for six years.

The three bills I am introducing today are important to the continuation of the American farmer over the next century. I know that these bills will benefit the producers of Missouri, and in turn benefit all of America.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to amend the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 to ensure that all persons who benefit from the dairy promotion and research program contribute to the cost of the program.

S. 717

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in Social Security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate fire safety standards for cigarettes, and for other purposes.

S. 764

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 764, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 779, a bill to provide that no Federal income tax shall be imposed on amounts received by Holocaust victims or their heirs.

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 779, *supra*.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to provide grants and contracts to local educational agencies to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs for all kindergarten through 12th grade students.

S. 1262

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1262, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide up-to-date school library medial resources and well-trained, professionally certified school library media specialists for elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a new prospective payment system for Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for electricity produced from newable resources.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to establish, wherever feasible, guidelines, recommendations, and regulations that promote the regulatory acceptance of new and revised toxicological tests that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, or replacing animal tests and ensuring human safety and product effectiveness.

S. 1787

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 1787, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve water quality on abandoned or inactive mined land.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to enhance the services provided by the Environmental Protection Agency to small communities that are attempting to comply with national, State, and local environmental regulations.

S. 2018

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the Medicare program.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2084, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of the charitable deduction allowable for contributions of food inventory, and for other purposes.

S. 2273

At the request of Mr. BRYAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2273, a bill to establish the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 2274

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the Medicaid program for such children.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to assure preservation of safety net hospitals through maintenance of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2423, a bill to provide Federal Perkins Loan cancellation for public defenders.

S. 2582

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2582, a bill to amend section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to better define the term political organization.

S. 2583

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2583, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase disclosure for certain political organizations exempt from tax under section 527.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2585, a bill to amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of the States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 2730

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2730, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2731, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to enhance the Nation's capacity to address public health threats and emergencies.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 111

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 111, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam.

S. RES. 239

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 239, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Nadia Dabbagh, who was abducted from the United States, should be returned home to her mother, Ms. Maureen Dabbagh.

S. RES. 294

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution designating the month of October 2000 as "Children's Internet Safety Month."

S. RES. 301

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 301, a resolution designating August 16, 2000, as "National Airborne Day."

AMENDMENT NO. 3430

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3430 proposed to H.R. 4475, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3432

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, supra.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, supra.

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, supra.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING MANIPULATION OF THE MASS AND INTIMIDATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS HIS STRONG CONCERN FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 123

Whereas almost all of the large printing plants, publishing houses, and newspaper distribution companies, several leading news agencies, and almost all of the nationwide television frequencies and broadcasting facilities in the Russian Federation remain under government control, despite the extensive privatization of state-owned enterprises in other sectors of the Russian economy;

Whereas the "Press Freedom Survey 2000" reported by "Freedom House" of Washington, DC, stated that the approximately 2,500 regional and rural newspapers in Russia outside of Moscow are almost completely owned by local or provincial governments;

Whereas the Government of Russia is able to suspend or revoke broadcast and publishing licenses and apply exorbitant taxes and fees on the independent media;

Whereas, in 1999, a major television network controlled by the Russian Government canceled the program "Top Secret" after it reported on alleged corruption at high levels of the government;

Whereas, in July 1999, the Government of Russia created a new Ministry for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications;

Whereas, in August 1999, the editors of fourteen of Russia's leading news publications sent an open letter to then Russian President Boris Yeltsin stating that high-ranking officials of the government were putting pressure on the mass media, particularly through unwarranted raids by tax police;

Whereas Mikhail Lesin, Minister for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications, stated in October 1999 that the Russian Government would change its policies towards the mass media so as to address "aggression" by the Russian press;

Whereas the Russian Federal Security Service or "FSB" is reportedly implementing a technical regulation known as "SORM-2" by which it could reroute, in real time, all electronic transmissions over the Internet through FSB offices for purposes of surveillance, a likely violation of the Russian constitution's provisions concerning the right to privacy of private communications, according to Aleksei Simonov, President of the Russian "Glasnost Defense Foundation," a nongovernmental human rights organization;

Whereas such surveillance under SORM-2 would allow the Russian Federal Security Service access to passwords, financial transactions, and confidential company information, among other transmissions;

Whereas it is reported that over one hundred Russian journalists have been killed

over the past decade, with few if any of the government investigations into those murders resulting in arrests, prosecutions, or convictions;

Whereas numerous observers of Russian politics have noted the blatant misuse of the leading Russian television channels, controlled by the Russian Government, to undermine popular support for political rivals of those supporting the government in the run-up to parliamentary elections held in December 1999;

Whereas it has been reported that Russian television stations controlled by the Russian Government were used to disparage opponents of Vladimir Putin during the campaign for the presidency in the beginning of this year, and whereas it has been reported that political advertisements by those candidates were routinely relegated by those stations to slots outside of prime time coverage;

Whereas manipulation of the media by the Russian Government appeared intent on portraying the Russian military attack on the separatist Republic of Chechnya to the maximum political advantage of the Russian Government;

Whereas in December 1999 two correspondents for "Reuters News Agency" and the "Associated Press" were reportedly accused of being foreign spies after reporting high Russian casualty figures in the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the arrest in January 2000, subsequent treatment by the Russian military, and prosecution by the Russian Government of Andrei Babitsky, a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, have constituted a violation of commitments made by the Russian Government to foster freedom of speech and of the press, and have reportedly constituted a violation of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;

Whereas in January 2000 Aleksandr Khinshtein, a reporter for the newspaper "Moskovsky Komсомоlet", was ordered by the Russian Federal Security Service to enter a clinic over 100 miles from his home for a psychiatric examination after he accused top Russian officials of illegal activities, and such detainment in psychiatric wards was previously employed by the former Soviet regime to stifle dissent;

Whereas the Russian newspaper "Novaya Gazeta" was officially warned by the Russian Ministry of the Press for its printing of an interview with Aslan Maskhadov, the elected President of the Republic of Chechnya; an entire issue of "Novaya Gazeta", including several articles alleging massive campaign finance violations by the presidential campaign of Vladimir Putin, was lost to unidentified computer "hackers"; and a journalist for "Novaya Gazeta" was savagely beaten in May of this year;

Whereas President Thomas Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on March 14th, 2000, condemned the Russian Government's expanding efforts to intimidate the mass media, stating that those actions threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas "NTV", the only national independent television station, which reaches half of Russia and is credited with professional and balanced news programs, has frequently broadcast news stories critical of Russian Government policies;

Whereas on May 11, 2000, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service carrying assault weapons raided the offices of "Media-Most", the corporate owner of NTV and other independent media;

Whereas the May 11th raid on Media-Most represented a failure of recourse to normal